Printed for the use of the Foreign Office. August 1877.

CONFIDENTIAL.

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FURTHER TELEGRAPHIC CORRESPONDENCE

RESPECTING THE

AFFAIRS OF TURKEY.

July 1877.

58

Printed for the use of the Foreign Office. August 1877.

CONFIDENTIAL.

Further Telegraphic Correspondence respecting the Affairs of Turkey.

No. 1.

Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received July* 1.)

St. Petersburgh, June 30, 1877.

(Telegraphic.)

I HAVE submitted proposed Admiralty Certificate. Minister told me to-day that he saw no objection to it, and that Imperial Government, wishing to prevent any difficulty in regard to coal-shipping in general, has instructed Russian Ambassador in London to settle and decide all questions relating thereto with Her Majesty's Government.

No. 2.

Lieutenant-Colonel Mansfield to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received July* 1.)

Bucharest, June 30, 1877.

(Telegraphic.)
(Confidential.)

WELLESLEY hears that Turkish army has left Rustchuk to attack Turkish position at Sistova. Prince Mirsky's division nearest Rustchuk has consequently entrenched itself. Probable crossing of Russians between [undecypherable].

No. 3.

Consul Ricketts to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received July* 1.)

Tiflis, June 30, 1877.

(Telegraphic.)

RUSSIANS repulsed with severe loss near Batoum on the 25th. Russian armies marching on Erzeroum reported defeated. Russian force near Kars weak. No reserve at hand.

No. 4.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received July* 1.)

Therapia, June 30, 1877.

(No. 213.)
(Telegraphic.)

WITH reference to your Lordship's telegram of yesterday, have no means of communicating at present with Sulina. "Rapid" is required at Kustendji.

No. 5.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Layard.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, July* 1, 1877.

WITH reference to my telegram of 23rd ultimo, you will be careful, in order to avoid future misunderstanding, to let the Porte understand that the Mission to Afghanistan will not be received officially by the Indian Government, but that the treatment of it will be strictly confined to the ordinary courtesy and hospitalities accorded to the Agents of foreign Governments passing through India without being accredited to the British Government.

No. 6.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received July 1.)

(Telegraphic.)
(No. 214. Confidential.) *Therapia, July* 1, 1877.

I AM very grateful for your telegram of yesterday, approving my conduct. May I inform Porte that the fleet is coming to Besika Bay? It is important, I think, that I should do so to prevent misconception in the present suspicious temper of the Turkish Government.

No. 7.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received July 1.)

(No. 215.)
(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, July* 1, 1877.

FOLLOWING from Lennox, dated yesterday:—

"We stayed at Nicopolis till 27th. Russians fired at iron-clads on 22nd and 23rd, and commenced firing at the works at Nicopolis on 25th, and continued until we left, and also while we were within hearing of Nicopolis some shells fell in the town of Nicopolis, but it was not bombarded. The two iron-clads remained serviceable on 26th and probably on 27th. When we got near Sistova on 27th, we heard that Russians had crossed between Sistova and Warden about 4 that morning. The Turks had 1 battalion and 1 gun at Sistova, and 5 battalions and 5 guns about an hour lower down. The Turks say that 2,000 Russians crossed each trip before the Turks attacked them. The Turks say the Russians had 1 iron-clad, 4 steam-launches, and 100 or 200 caiques, and they sank at least four or five boats. Troops were in action till half-past 3, and then all retired unpursued to Biela, and bivouacked on the right bank, where they were joined next morning by a brigade from Rustchuk. The Turks took two prisoners, who say the Russian and Roumanian force at Ziemnitza was from 55 to 60 battalions, 5 batteries, and 2 regiments of cavalry—at least 30,000 Russians: brought over two mountain-guns early, but did not pass over any cavalry till late. Telegraph cut before Russians crossed.

"We got to Rustchuk on afternoon of 28th. The bombardment then had ceased. We counted twenty shells burst in hospital konak.

"We reached Varna last night; stay till Monday probably."

No. 8.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received July 1.)

(No. 216.)
(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, July* 1, 1877.

CONSUL READE, just arrived here from Rustchuk by Varna, gives a bad account of state of Turkish army and of incapacity of Turkish Generals and officers. Eshref Pasha, the Commander of the Rustchuk Division, has taken up a position at Biela with such forces as he can collect, which may amount to about 20,000 men, to oppose Russian advance. Reade stated that he has information from a trustworthy source that Russians are inciting the Bulgarians to massacre Mussulmans in Dobrutcha, and that about 3,000 Bashi-Bazouks are on their way to protect them. He anticipates

the most serious consequences to the Christians. I have directed Vice-Consul Sankey by telegraph to obtain trustworthy information, and to report to me at once.

No. 9.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received July 1.)

(No. 217.) *Therapia, July* 1, 1877.
(Telegraphic.)

WITH reference to your telegram of to-day I have already given the Grand Vizier clearly to understand that the Mission to Afghanistan cannot be received officially on its passage through India, and that it will be required to pass through our territory as quietly and quickly as possible.

Now that I am acquainted with the views of Her Majesty's Government with reference to the Mission, I will act accordingly.

No. 10.

Mr. Stuart to the Earl of Derby.—(Received July 1.)

Athens, July 1, 1877.

(Telegraphic.)

I AM informed that employé of Austrian Ministry for Foreign Affairs has been sent to Corfu in order to verify contents of cases belonging to Porte which have been detained there, and to arrange for their embarkation on board next Austrian steamer for Trieste.

No. 11.

Lieutenant-Colonel Mansfield to the Earl of Derby.—(Received July 1.)

(Confidential.) *Bucharest, July* 1, 1877.
(Telegraphic.)

COLONEL WELLESLEY starts to-night for the Emperor's head-quarters at Zimmua, in compliance with His Imperial Majesty's invitation.

No. 12.

Mr. Taylour Thomson to the Earl of Derby.—(Received July 1.)

Tehran, June 30, 1877.

(Telegraphic.)

INFORMATION which has reached the Persian Government confirms the previous report that the Russians have retired from Kizl Arvarl.

No. 13.

Mr. Macdonell to the Earl of Derby.—(Received July 2.)

(Confidential.) *Berlin, July* 2, 1877.
(Telegraphic.)

I AM reliably informed that Prince Bismarck sees no immediate cause for alarm with regard to France; the tone of the press will now be more moderate.

The Prince manifests great anxiety at the aspect of affairs respecting the East, and is desirous to anticipate further complications by (group left out?) with Her Majesty's Government.

His Highness expressed the wish to see Lord Odo Russell, who is expected to-night.

No. 14.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Layard.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, July 2, 1877, 5·45 P.M.*

WITH reference to your telegram No. 214, you may inform the Porte that the fleet has been ordered to Besika Bay. It started from the Piræus this morning.

No. 15.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received July 2.)

(No. 218.)
(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, July 2, 1877.*

IN case of threatened occupation by Russians of places where there are British Consuls and Vice-Consuls, do you wish latter to remain or to withdraw?

I have been asked question by some of them.

No. 16.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received July 2.)

(No. 219.)
(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, July 2, 1877.*

SULTAN presided at a Council of Ministers to-day. He reproached them for having deceived him about the state of his army in Bulgaria, and for having allowed the Russians to cross the Danube without opposition. He ordered Redif Pasha, the Minister of War, to leave to-day for Shumla. I am informed, but cannot vouch for the truth of the information, that it was decided in the Council that the army in Bulgaria should fall back at once upon the Balkans, leaving sufficient force in the fortresses to hold them.

No. 17.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received July 2.)

(No. 220.)
(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, July 2, 1877.*

WITH reference to your telegram of the 29th ultimo, I submitted despatch of the Vice-Consul at Damascus to Mr. Fawcett as soon as it reached me, and I have to-day received from him an elaborate opinion upon the subject, which I will send to your Lordship by next messenger. The questions raised by the Vice-Consul present considerable difficulties, and I think it better to wait your Lordship's instructions before taking any steps.

No. 18.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received July 2.)

(No. 221. Most Confidential.)
(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, July 2, 1877.*

THE news that our fleet was coming to Besika Bay was known to-day in Constantinople by telegraph from Athens. It was not well received except by the Sultan. We are much suspected and distrusted at this moment. There is an idea that we are prepared to abandon Turkey altogether, and to take something for ourselves. I have reason to believe that the attempts to set the Sultan against me have not succeeded, and I hope to see him in a day or two. German as well as Russian agents are endeavouring to destroy influence of England altogether, and to make the Turks believe that no trust should be placed in us, and that if they want peace they must look to Russia alone.

No. 19.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received July 2.)

(No. 222.)
(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, July 2, 1877.*

AS notwithstanding the promises given me, Kemball is not apparently allowed to telegraph, I have no trustworthy news from the seat of war in Asia. According to telegram just received by the Porte, the Turkish troops have had four engagements with Russians near Alishkerd, two of which were serious. The Russians are stated to have been driven back to Kara Kilissé with considerable loss. Troops are being hurried up to Sofia. Twenty-five battalions have just left for that place. Fresh reports are current of massacres of Mussulmans by Bulgarians.

No. 20.

Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.—(Received July 2.)

(Telegraphic.) *St. Petersburgh, July 2, 1877.*

AN official telegram received to-day reports occupation of Turnova, near the Balkans, by a cavalry force under General Skoboleff.

No. 21.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received July 3.)

(No. 223.)
(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, July 3, 1877.*

I HAVE received following from Sir Arnold Kemball:—

"The army of Ahmed Mukhtar Pasha has been completely victorious along the whole line from Delibaba to Zewin; the Russian left wing, which was in the Darbogas of Delibaba, was forced after a severe defeat to retire on Tahir. On Monday Russians attacked Turks in position at Zewin with twenty battalions of infantry, twenty-four field guns, and some regiments of cavalry. The assaults continued for eight hours, when the Turkish troops, having bravely sustained the attack, repulsed the Russians with very great loss in killed and wounded, who were left on the field. In the battle Ferik Muhlis Pasha was wounded. After the battle the Russians retired on Ghelli Doof, where they await reinforcements. It now appears that the Russians have not more than twenty-eight battalions. Mukhtar Pasha went to Delibaba with a small reinforcement for the right wing, to organise it in a way to effectually oppose the Russian left wing. After doing this he returned this Thursday to Zewin, and I am with him."

No. 22.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received July 3.)

(No. 224.)
(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, July 3, 1877.*

I DIRECTED Vice-Consul Sankey to make inquiries on the spot as to reported massacres of Christians in the Dobrudscha. He telegraphs to me that the reports on this subject are much exaggerated, and that no persons have been killed.

No. 23.

Lieutenant-Colonel Mansfield to the Earl of Derby.—(Received July 3.)

(Confidential.)
(Telegraphic.) *Bucharest, July 3, 1877.*

I HAVE just seen an American correspondent direct from Widdin, who is thoroughly trustworthy.

The garrison, 25,000 strong, is in a wretched state; 3 lbs. of rice per day for ten men; eighty-six field-pieces, for which they have hardly teams for forty.

Troops all militia, and with old percussion rifles; no cavalry, except a few hundred Circassians in uniform of regular army; but eighteen Krupp guns in the works.

Camp at Widdin is in complete ignorance of what is going on elsewhere.

No. 24.

Consul-General White to the Earl of Derby.—(Received July 3.)

(Telegraphic.) *Belgrade, July 3, 1877.*

PRINCE MILAN has opened last night Servian Assembly with Speech.

Majority favour peace and Ministers.

It is reported that Roumanian force has crossed Danube above Widdin, at a little distance from Servian frontier.

Sent to Constantinople.

No. 25.

Consul Ricketts to the Earl of Derby.—(Received July 4, 1·20 P.M.)

(Telegraphic.) *Tiflis, July 3, 1877, 8·55 P.M.*

THREE thousand of the 41st arrived from Poti, and went July 2 to Alexandropol. On the 26th ultimo, there were only 13,000 regular infantry at Kars.

No. 26.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received July 4.)

(No. 225.)
(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, July 3, 1877.*

FOLLOWING from Consul at Erzeroum, dated July 2:—

"On Friday Russians were attacked by Mukhtar Pasha at Haligaz, and, after severe action, driven from their intrenchments with reported loss of 3,000; Turkish loss 2,000. Russians now hold position at Zakopkiun, nine miles in the rear. Russian corps of about 18,000 is marching from centre towards Yenikeui, supposed object being to attack Moukhtar Pasha in the rear. Turks have detached eighteen battalions to meet it. Moukhtar Pasha was on Saturday preparing to push in pursuit of Russian left wing."

No. 27.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received July 4.)

(No. 226.)
(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, July 3, 1877.*

FROM Consul at Erzeroum, dated July 3, morning:—

"The sudden and, as yet, unaccountable retreat of Russians I announced in my telegram *en clair* may be a feint to draw Turks out of their intrenchments. Commander-in-chief even states he cannot understand reason. He is, however, in pursuit, and has ordered authorities here to keep him well supplied with provisions and ammunition as he advances. He will probably enter Kars to-day. At Bayazid, Koords have massacred part of the Russian garrison and most of the Christians there and in contiguous villages. Faik Pasha was unable to restrain them. Van, Moush, Bitlis, in distressed condition from outrages by Koords. State of siege proclaimed here yesterday."

No. 28.

Consul Kirby Green to the Earl of Derby.—(Received July 4.)

(Telegraphic.) *Scutari, July 3, 1877.*

SULEIMAN PASHA and staff are expected here to-morrow on their way to Constantinople, or one of the two other seats of war. They will probably be followed by some of the troops here.

No. 29.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received July 4.)

(No. 227.)
(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, July 4, 1877.*

BLUHM PASHA and several officers have arrived at Gallipoli with a view to fortification of the lines.

No. 30.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received July 4.)

(No. 228.)
(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, July 4, 1877, 4 P.M.*

FOLLOWING from Consul at Erzeroum dated Tuesday noon:—

"On Monday and Tuesday of last week Russians bombarded Kars very heavily; on Wednesday fire ceased; same day general retreat of Russians along whole line commenced; on Saturday and Sunday Turkish right wing attacked Russian left near Karakalissa, and gained both actions. After last engagement Russians retreated hastily, leaving their dead on field, abandoning over 140,000 lbs. of flour and biscuit, burning camp equipages and destroying ammunition, taking with them 740 carts with wounded. Russian column before Zivin on retiring was followed closely by Moukhtar Pasha, who is now close to Zaim, where they appear to be concentrating. Kars regarded free."

No. 31.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received July 4.)

(Telegraphic.)
(Very Confidential.) *Vienna, July 4, 1877.*

THE Turkish Ambassador tells me that on his asking Count Andrassy, by instructions from the Porte, to remonstrate at St. Petersburgh against devastation with which the war is carried on, his Excellency declined to interfere, but took credit to himself for having secured the neutrality of Servia and for being prepared to influence the consequences of the war.

No. 32.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Layard.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, July 4, 1877.*

TO what places does the question in your telegram No. 218 refer? It is as a rule desirable that Consular Officers of all ranks should remain at their posts unless absolutely forced to leave them.

No. 33.

Consul Kirby Green to the Earl of Derby.—(Received July 5.)

(Telegraphic.) *Scutari, July 4, 1877.*

I BELIEVE that the Turkish Commanders would be glad if by any means peace negotiations could be opened with Montenegro, and thus a stop put to impending attempt to reach Cettigné.

No. 34.

Lieutenant-Colonel Mansfield to the Earl of Derby.—(Received July 5.)

(Telegraphic.) *Bucharest, July 4, 1877, 4 P.M.*

It is probable that Roumanian army will attempt passage of Danube at Florentina, a little higher than Kalafat, next Sunday. Bridging material is ready and in course of transport from Gruia.

No. 35.

Consul Kirby Green to the Earl of Derby.—(Received July 5.)

(Telegraphic.) *Scutari, July 2, 1877.*

BY my telegram of yesterday *en clair*, your Lordship will have probably understood that the Turks were decided to assume the defensive here. I have just seen Suleiman Pasha, and I now have every reason to believe that the Porte would not be unwilling to come to an arrangement with Montenegro for the cessation of hostilities. It is not improbable, in face of the losses sustained by Montenegro, that the Prince is animated with the same wish, but is unaware of the change in the intentions of the Turks towards him. If your Lordship should approve, I could easily go to Cettigné, as the transport of the grain is about to be renewed, and in quite an unofficial and most guarded manner express my belief there that the Turks are disposed to treat with His Highness, and an opening might be thus made for bringing to an end the useless effusion of blood going on here.

Telegraphed to Constantinople.

No. 36.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received July 5.)

(No. .)
(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, July 4, 1877, 7 P.M.*

SULTAN asks me to state to Her Majesty's Government that he has a number of Russian prisoners, officers and men, and that he has given orders for them to be treated with every kindness and consideration. He wishes to be informed through Her Majesty's Embassy at St. Petersburgh, as Her Majesty's Government has kindly undertaken to protect Turkish subjects in Russia, whether Turkish prisoners are properly treated there.

No. 37.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received July 5.)

(No. 230.)
(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, July 5, 1877.*

I SAW the Sultan privately yesterday. I urged on him the absolute necessity of taking measures for the protection of lives and property of Christians from Circassians, Kurds, and others. He assured me that he had heard of their excesses with great grief, and that he had given the most peremptory orders that steps should be taken to put an immediate stop to them, and those orders should be repeated.

His Majesty said the Russians were adopting a policy in Bulgaria which might lead to very grave results. They were distributing arms and ammunition among the Christians and calling on them to rise, threatening them with death if they refused. He told me he intended to issue a proclamation assuring the Bulgarians of his protection, promising them good and just government, and the greatest security for their district and political rights, threatening with treatment as rebels those who were taken in arms and offering an asylum in the Schumla quadrilateral or elsewhere to old men, women, and children. I strongly advised him to be conciliatory and moderate, and to avoid threatening language, which might produce an unfavourable effect abroad.

He said that he had expressed to Bulgarian Exarch, whom he had seen, his true sentiments with regard to Bulgarians, and had authorized him to communicate them to his people. His Majesty spoke very strongly with regard to atrocities attributed to Russians, saying that he had directed his Ministers to call attention of European foreign Powers to them, so that the world might judge who were the barbarians.

Sultan expressed much satisfaction at the presence of the fleet in Besika Bay, and asked why it had been sent there; but as I told him I was not authorized to make any communication to him on the subject, he did not ask any further questions.

No. 38.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received July 5.)

(No. 231.)
(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, July 5, 1877.*

WITH reference to Colonel Mansfield's telegram transmitted to me yesterday by your Lordship, the information we have received here from Widdin does not tally with that furnished by American correspondent. However, I will inquire at once of Lennox.

No. 39.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received July 5.)

(No. 232.)
(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, July 5, 1877.*

WITH reference to your telegram of yesterday, I have been only asked the question by Consular Agents at Rustchuk, and Kustendji, Erzeroum, and ( ).

I will instruct them to remain at their posts as long as possible.

No. 40.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received July 5.)

(No. 233.)
(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, July 5, 1877.*

FOLLOWING from Sir A. Kemball, date Millidoy, July 2:—

"Upon information that Russians had retired from Savi Kamish in direction of Kars, Mukhtar Pasha broke up camp at Zewin Saturday. Moves on to-day to Savi Kamish. Caucasus reported here to be in full revolt, and Russian army supposed to be retiring on frontier. Hence this movement.

No. 41.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received July 5.)

(No. 234.)
(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, July 5, 1877.*

SERVIAN Agent informs me that, in pursuance of instructions from his Government, he gave, last night, the most distinct assurances to Porte that the visit of the Prince to the Emperor of Russia had in no respect changed the attitude of Servia towards Turkey, and that Servia had no intention to take any part in the war, under present circumstances.

Servian Agent adds that Turkish Minister for Foreign Affairs expressed himself satisfied with these assurances.

No. 42.

Consul-General White to the Earl of Derby.—(Received July 6.)

(Telegraphic.) *Belgrade, July 5, 1877.*

IT seems that crossing of the Roumanian force over Danube has not been accomplished yet: it is confidently hoped it will not be over Servian territory, but lower.

(Sent to Constantinople.)

No. 43.

Consul Ricketts to the Earl of Derby.—(Received July 6.)

(Telegraphic.) *Tiflis, July 5, 1877.*

DEFEAT of Muscovites near Batoum, reported in a former telegram, confirmed; they have been driven back to Ozurget; 8,000 troops have been sent from the army of Rion to Kars. Will not withdrawal of this force compel abandonment on this side of operations against Batoum?

No. 44.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received July 6.)

(No. 235.)
(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, July 6, 1877, 10·40 A.M.*

VICE-CONSUL at Trebizond telegraphs that a private letter to him, dated Soukoum Kaleh, 26th ultimo, not from newspaper correspondent, states that Russian atrocities are reported at Adler, north of Soukoum.

1,500 families are reported to have died of starvation, being forced to fly into the forests to escape the Cossacks, who burnt and pillaged all before them.

No. 45.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Layard.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, July 6, 1877, 3·45 P.M.*

WHAT is your opinion of Mr. Green's proposal to go to Cettigné, made in his telegram of 4th instant?

No. 46.

The Earl of Derby to Consul Kirby Green.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, July 6, 1877, 4 P.M.*

MR. LAYARD is being consulted with reference to the proposal in your telegram of the 4th instant.

No. 47.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received July 6.)

(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, July 6, 1877, 5 P.M.*

AS the Emperor of Austria is staying in the neighbourhood of Vienna, I am assured that he will not meet Emperor of Germany on his Majesty's way to Gastein,

and that a meeting between their Majesties will not take place until Emperor William is on his way home.

No. 48.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received July 6.)

(No. 236.)
(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, July 6, 1877, 7·45 P.M.*

CONSUL READE telegraphs from Varna:—

"Just returned from Kustendje. Alleged outrages untrue. Situation under actual circumstances favourable. Report by post."

No. 49.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received July 7, 2·30 P.M.)

(No. 237. Most Confidential.)
(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, July 7, 1877, 11 A.M.*

SULTAN has sent me copy of telegrams from Governor of Bosnia, stating that a body of 1,500 insurgents have been allowed by Austrian military authorities to assemble on the Turkish frontier at Serajevo, and another band of 2,000 at Belugh for the purpose of attacking Ottoka and Carolina.

They are amply provided with arms, and it is expected that they will cross immediately into Bosnia. They receive every help and encouragement from the Austrian military authorities, who furnish them with instructions and hold out promises of assistance in case of Turkish forces being sent against them, and whose evident intention it is to provoke Turkey and to bring on a case for war between her and Austria. His Majesty requests me to communicate the substance of telegrams to Her Majesty's Government, and expresses hope that they will make friendly representations to Cabinet of Austria, in order to prevent breaking out of an insurrection which may bring death and misery upon innocent women and children and old men, and at same time place the country in great danger.

Under the circumstances, the Imperial Government, His Majesty says, cannot help taking some measures for suppressing the insurrection and chastising its authors.

No. 50.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received July 7.)

(No. 238.)
(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, July 7, 1877.*

SIR A. KEMBALL telegraphs following, dated Sarakamish, night, Wednesday:—

"Commander-in-chief supposes Russian army is retiring demoralized to the frontier, and Caucasus in full revolt; broke up his camp near Zevin on Saturday, and marched in pursuit. We reached this Monday, halted yesterday, and to-day shall march about seven miles to position distant about ten miles from enemy's position beyond Ardost: movement very hazardous. Left wing of Russian army is retiring in good order by cross roads from Ralat, followed, but not seriously attacked, by Turkish right wing since June 21.

"Bayazid closely invested, and supposed to be on the point of surrendering."

No. 51.

Consul Kirby Green to the Earl of Derby.—(Received July 7.)

(Telegraphic.) *Scutari, July 7, 1877.*

SULEIMAN PASHA having inquired this morning whether your Lordship has taken any action on my proposal of 4th instant, I told him that your Lordship had communicated with Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople. His Excellency has

now led me to understand that the Porte has given him full powers, and that he believes the Porte has done this to avoid the appearance of making the first advances to Montenegro.

His Excellency added, confidentially and privately, that if any good is to come out of this affair he is the person empowered to accomplish it. In the last paragraph of telegram sent by Budua I communicated that orders have been given to the authorities in the Herzegovina to make no contracts for military supplies.

Telegraphed to Constantinople.

No. 52.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Vivian.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, July* 7, 1877, 2·45 P.M.

WITH reference to your despatch No. 188, inform naval and marine officers employed by Egyptian Government that they may retain their appointment so long as they are of a purely civil character.

No. 53.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Layard.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, July* 7, 1877, 2·55 P.M.

IT has been decided by the Admiralty that naval and marine officers employed by Egyptian Government may retain their appointments so long as they are of a purely civil character.

No. 54.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Layard.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, July* 7, 1877, 3·10 P.M.

WITH reference to your despatch No. 651 of the 20th ultimo, Lieutenant Layard and Major de Winton, R.A., are appointed additional Military Attachés in Turkey.

No. 55.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received July 8.)

(No. 239.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, July* 8, 1877, 8·30 A.M.

KARS is relieved, and Russians were again defeated at Ipak Chadik. At Attek Kilissia, the Turks found dead bodies of Christians in the church which had been plundered by the Russians, the priest having been wounded and carried off a prisoner on account of his fidelity to the Sultan.

The Russians have attempted to cross the Danube near Silistria with two steamers and a number of boats and rafts, but were repulsed with loss. Above information from the Porte.

No. 56.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received July 8.)

(No. 240.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, July* 8, 1877.

THE Circassians stationed near Pera on their way to the war entered yesterday some shops and cafés, and quarrels ensued, without any other consequences than much alarm to the population. Porte has been urged to take steps immediately to send them away to the seat of war.

No. 57.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received July 8.)

(No. 241.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, July* 8, 1877.

IN consequence of the state of war, Porte has forbidden entrance by night into port of Smyrna to all ships of war and merchant vessels.

No. 58.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received July 8.)

(No. 242.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, July* 8, 1877.

WITH reference to your telegram of the 6th instant, I have reason to believe that the Porte would not be unwilling to come to some arrangement with Montenegro, and I do not see any objection to Mr. Green's going to Cettigné, but I cannot speak with certainty.

No. 59.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received July 8, *at night.)*

(No. 243.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, July* 8, 1877.

I HAVE just been informed from the Palace that, according to a telegram from the telegraph station at Grahova, the Russians have attacked the town of Selvi, to the west of Turnova, and that they are advancing upon Grahova, which is at the foot of the Balkan Pass of Shipka.

No. 60.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received July 8, *at night.)*

(No. 244.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, July* 8, 1877.

PORTE has entered into a contract with an Englishman for finishing the lines at Buyak Chekmeji within two months. Bluhm Pasha is superintending the works of Gallipoli Peninsula, and I have sent Captain Fife to report to me on their progress.

No. 61.

Lieutenant-Colonel Mansfield to the Earl of Derby.—(Received July 8.)

(Secret.)
(Telegraphic.) *Bucharest, July* 8, 1877.

COLONEL WELLESLEY requests me to communicate following:—

"*Imperial Head-Quarters, Zimnicea.*

"Please send me Cypher, which is indispensable, as soon as possible. All my colleagues have one.

"My position better than ever.

"Emperor Alexander much hurt at dispatch of English fleet.

"It was at first reported fleet had been sent to Gallipoli, and he then said that such a measure was entirely at variance with the Queen's letter. Grand Duke Nicholas also begged to let my Government know impression made by the dispatch of fleet, which would only encourage Turkey and prolong war.

"I believe that Emperor intends to cross Danube, remaining with army. Infantry of Grand Ducal (*sic*) army preparing semi-circular (position ?) of no great radius, with Sistova as centre, and cavalry expeditions pushed out towards Rustchuk and Tirnova; 8th corps still on Danube; 12th on road to Tirnova; 35th division of 13th corps

marching to left front; 9th corps crossing river at Zimnicea; 14th on Kustendji railway; 4th corps infantry, rifle brigade, and Bulgarian legion marching on Tirnova, preceded by four special cavalry brigades.

"So far Bulgaria abounds in supplies. Czarevitch will command army forming for siege of Rustchuk.

"Grand Duke Michael in Asia received no news from Bayazid for a week.

"Emperor told me this evening, July 6, that Russian Ambassador in London states that the dispatch of British fleet to Besica Bay is intended as a counter-demonstration to crossing of Danube by Russian troops.

"I think that assurances to the contrary would have an excellent effect here.

"Emperor also told me that he had better news about England from Berlin, which emanated from the English Ambassador just returned to his post.

"Emperor Alexander trusted Russian Ambassador was misinformed."

No. 62.

Consul Kirby Green to the Earl of Derby.—(Received July 8, at night.)

(Telegraphic.) *Scutari, July 8, 1877.*

ON the earnest request of Suleiman Pasha, I beg to acquaint your Lordship, at the risk of repetition, that for the last three days he has been in possession of full powers from the Porte for negotiating with Montenegro for peace or for a cessation of hostilities, and that he is most anxious that your Lordship should authorize me to see whether or not Prince Nicholas is disposed to treat with him.

His Excellency presses for an answer, as his military duties are calling him elsewhere.

If peace is not made, this withdrawal of troops from North Albania will expose the province not only to the operations of the enemy, but also to the excesses of the irregulars that have been inconsiderately collected here.

Telegraphed to Constantinople.

No. 63.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received July 9.)

(No. 245. Secret.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, July 8, 1877.*

THE Sultan has sent to ask me whether he can look to England for help in any way, or whether he is to be abandoned altogether, as it is now time for England to decide. I answered that I could not say anything which might lead him to hope for assistance.

He is evidently in great fear and distress. He has given orders to Commander-in-chief in Bulgaria to make an attempt at once to check Russian advance on Grahova, and Raouf Pasha, the Minister of Marine, will leave immediately to direct defence of the Balkan passes, to which all disposable troops are being hurried.

The situation is undoubtedly critical.

I am assured that serious apprehensions may be entertained of Mussulmans turning upon Christians, especially when outrages alleged to be perpetrated by Russians on Mahommedan populations become generally known.

This is confirmed to me by head of the Secret Police, but I see no symptoms of it here as yet.

No. 64.

The Earl of Derby to Consul Kirby Green.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, July 9, 1877, 3·10 P.M.*

YOU may go to Cettigné, as proposed in your telegram.

No. 65.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Layard.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, July 9, 1877, 4·30 P.M.*

MR. KIRBY GREEN has been authorized to go to Cettigné; you should inform the Porte.

No. 66.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received July 10.)*

(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, July 9, 1877.*

I AM assured by Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs that no such bands can exist on the Austrian frontier as those referred to by Mr. Layard's telegram forwarded to me on Saturday. It is possible, however, he says, that bands of insurgents, occupying the strip of territory between Unna and the Austrian frontier may be supposed by Turkish authorities to be on Austro-Hungarian territory. He states also that the troops in Bosnia, being now all concentrated in towns, insurgent marauders are able to go wherever they choose, pillaging both Mahommedan and Christian population. Besides, there is a mountain range of considerable extent, which no Turkish military or police forces have crossed during last year, and in which, consequently, the insurgents are in entire safety.

No. 67.

Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.—(Received July 10.)

(Telegraphic.) *St. Petersburgh, July 9, 1877.*

OFFICIAL telegram reports defeat yesterday by General Gourka with cavalry force and one battery of horse artillery of 3,000 Turkish troops at Tirnova, capturing camp, ammunition, wagons, and train. Turks retired on Osman Bazar. Russian infantry and cavalry are marching on Tirnova.

No. 68.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received July 10.)

(No. 246.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, July 9, 1877.*

I AM informed that the Russians have occupied Tirnova, Plewna, and Selvi, in Bulgaria, without resistance.

No. 69.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received July 10.)

(No. 248.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, July 10, 1877.*

FOLLOWING from Consul at Erzeroum:—

"Ismail Pasha telegraphs that Russian left wing has been forced back across frontier with loss, and he is close on the frontier and still advancing."

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* Repeated to Constantinople.

No. 70.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received July* 10.)

(No. 249.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, July* 10, 1877.

SIR A. KEMBALL telegraphs on the 6th :—

"Commander-in-chief encamped within 18 miles of Kars. Russians said to be retiring on their position at Kevreckduvra on the road to Gumri. Their whole force no more than 40 battalions. Commander-in-chief has received reinforcement of 5 battalions to-day from Erzeroum; 3 more expected from Khorassan. Expedition under him will be then 33 battalions, and garrison of Kars 30 battalions. Left wing has effected retreat by cross roads between Karakilissa and Bayazid. I have permitted Captains McCalmont and Trotter to visit Kars."

No. 71.

Consul Sanderson to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received July* 10.)

(Telegraphic.) *Galatz, July* 10, 1877.

BRITISH Commissioner to your Lordship :—

"Commission received to-day official intelligence that the Russians instead of torpedoes are sinking barges filled with stone in the Sulina branch. Results very disastrous to future navigation of Danube."

No. 72.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received July* 10.)

(No. 250. Secret.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, July* 10, 1877.

SULTAN has just sent Said Pasha to me to say that Russians are advancing on road to Slimno, where it is expected they will attempt to cross the Balkans. Raouf Pasha is ordered to take measures at once for the defence of the pass, but it is doubtful whether reinforcements will reach him in time. If the Russians reach Slimno the road to Adrianople will be open to them. The Governor of Turnova has come to Adrianople and describes shocking outrages committed by Russians and Bulgarian Christians upon Mahommedan population.

Sultan says that if these things continue he cannot be responsible for what the Mahommedans may do. I have urged in the strongest manner that every possible means may be taken to restrain them from committing acts of retaliation, and I am assured that orders will be sent to all the Turkish authorities to do their utmost to prevent them.

I have reason to believe that the Sultan has been informed, I have not yet ascertained through what source, but possibly from Germany, that Russia would make peace upon three principal conditions, viz.: surrender of Batoum, the freedom of navigation for her fleets of Bosphorus and Dardanelles, and the autonomy of Bulgaria.

Nothing was said of what is meant by Bulgaria. As far as I can judge, these terms would not at this moment be accepted, although Sultan has not much hope that Abdul Kerim Pasha, who still remains inactive at Shumla, will be able to check Russian advance.

It is of the utmost importance that Her Majesty's Government should without delay come to some decision as to course they intend to pursue, and that I should have definite instructions.

No. 73.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received July* 10.)

(No. 252.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, July* 10, 1877.

CONSUL at Erzeroum telegraphs following dated this morning :—

"Mukhtar Pasha has reached Schiwen Kaza, three miles from Kars, and established communication with garrison; Russians, having raised siege, retired to Kurek Dere and Shuragel. Ismail Pasha with right wing at Mossou, nine miles from frontier. Russian left, under Dergan Aropi, holds position at foot of Ararat."

No. 74.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received July* 10.)

(Secret.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, July* 10, 1877, 1·15 P.M

WITH reference to my telegram of this morning, my suspicions as to the source through which terms of peace have been proposed to the Sultan have been confirmed by what Admiral Hornby heard this morning from Prince Reuss.

No. 75.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received July* 10.)

(No. 253.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, July* 10, 1877.

WITH reference to your despatch No. 218, please inform Consul at Tiflis that Porte requests that Paleologus and sixty-three Turkish subjects detained there be delivered under flag of truce to Turkish outposts near Tchuruksou.

No. 76.

Lieutenant-Colonel Mansfield to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received July* 10.)

(Telegraphic.)
(Confidential.) *Bucharest, July* 10, 1877.

COLONEL WELLESLEY writes, dated the 8th instant :—

"News just received at head-quarters of the occupation of Tirnova to-day by Russian cavalry."

No. 77.

Vice-Consul Joly to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received July* 10.)

(Telegraphic.) *Smyrna, July* 10, 1877.

ALL vessels prohibited from passing Kastle entrance of this bay between sunset and sunrise.

No. 78.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received July* 11.)

(No. 254.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, July* 10, 1877.

INFORMATION has been received that Redif Pasha, Minister of War, died suddenly at Shumla, but I do not know cause of his death. Of course treachery, in which Russia is concerned, will be suspected, and impression produced will be very bad.

No. 79.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received July 11.)

(No. 255.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, July 11, 1877.*

PORTE informs me that the Russians have been beaten at Plevna, which has been reoccupied by the Turks, and civil authorities reinstated.

No. 80.

Consul Kirby Green to the Earl of Derby.—(Received July 11.)

(Telegraphic.) *Scutari, July 11, 1877.*

PRINCE of Montenegro has invited (me) to visit him at Orialuka, and I am leaving now by Spuz. Shall be there to-morrow.

Sent to Constantinople.

No. 81.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received July 11.)

(No. 256.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, July 11, 1877.*

IT appears that death of Redif Pasha, which I telegraphed yesterday, was false. It was sent me by the Austrian Ambassador, and consequently I believed it.

No. 82.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received July 11.)

(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, July 11, 1877.*

I AM assured, with reference to a newspaper report on the subject, that Baron Calice, who is going to England to visit his wife's family, is not charged with any Mission to Her Majesty's Government.

No. 83.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received July 11.)

(Telegraphic.)
(Confidential.) *Vienna, July 11, 1877.*

THE information contained in your Lordship's telegram of yesterday respecting the Sulina branch of the Danube has also been received at the Foreign Office here, but has not yet been submitted to Count Andrassy. The Director of the Commercial Department, who is of opinion that some steps should be taken in the interest of the navigation, says that they must depend on how far the channel can be included in the neutralized works of the Commission, to which I answered, as the Commission have doubled the depth of the river, the operation should apparently be included in its works. An early communication of the views of Her Majesty's Government on this point and on the measures to be taken to remedy the mischief already done and to prevent its being continued will be thankfully received here.

No. 84.

Lieutenant-Colonel Mansfield to the Earl of Derby.—(Received July 12.)

(Telegraphic.)
(Confidential.) *Bucharest, July 11, 1877.*

WELLESLEY writes from Zimnicea 9th July:—

"Tirnova was captured by Prince Eugene Leuchtenberg's brigade belonging to General Gourkhos' cavalry command, and two Cossack regiments. Position appears to

have been turned by the Russians, who captured Turkish camp, train, and a quantity of ammunition. Turks, said to have numbered 7,000, with one battery, forced to retire on Shumla instead of Balkan, as they intended. Russian infantry expected at Tirnova to-day and further advance to-morrow. Czarevitch marching on Rustchuk with 12th and 13th corps, former commanded by Grand Duke Vladimir. 9th corps marching on Nicopoli.

"Advanced squadrons of Czarevitch's cavalry said to have had successful affair with Turkish cavalry in superior force at a village beyond Bjela.

"Emperor still at Zimnicea. Grand Duke Nicholas advancing along Tirnova road."

No. 85.

Consul Ricketts to the Earl of Derby.—(Received July 12.)

(Telegraphic.) *Tiflis, July 11, 1877.*

TEN thousand Persian troops are at Khoi. Frankini still at Teheran. Muscovite loss between 27th ultimo and 1st instant near Soukoum Kale was 2,500.

No. 86.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received July 12.)

(No. 258.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, July 12, 1877.*

SIR A. KEMBALL telegraphs, dated Tuesday:—

"Russians retired with all their force to Kurucdere last night; it is supposed to await arrival of expected reinforcements. It is ascertained that they commenced the campaign with only 50,000 men from Batoum to Bayazid."

No. 87.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received July 13.)

(No. 260.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, July 12, 1877.*

SIR A. KEMBALL telegraphs from Kars on the 8th, that after twenty days' bombardment, doing little or no damage, Russians had apparently ceased firing on that day. They were supposed to have sent, he says, their guns back to Kerreckdee. Their batteries were about 4,000 yards off north-east front. Kars is presumed impregnable by assault, and believed amply supplied with provisions and ammunition. Turkish Commander-in-chief talks of remaining some time in the same position, and has ordered more ammunition from Erzeroom for Kars.

No. 88.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received July 13.)

(No. 261.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, July 13, 1877.*

FOLLOWING received to-day from Bagdad:—

"The evacuation of the island in the Euphrates is complete. No building upon it."

No. 89.

Consul Kirby Green to the Earl of Derby.—(Received July 13.)

(Telegraphic.) *Danilograd, July 13, 1877.*

PRINCE NICHOLAS has received me most kindly. During conversations clearly understood to be private, his Highness informed me that his sense of honour forced him to continue hostilities with hope of retaining Turkish troops in Albania, but he said Russia a few days ago advised him to seek a suspension of hostilities, as his people needed repose.

I urged his Highness to reconsider his determination, and though his Highness promised nothing, I am not without hope that he will be guided by the alleged advice of his ally.

Not sent to Constantinople.

No. 90.

Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.—(Received July 13.)

(Telegraphic.) *St. Petersburgh, July 13, 1877.*

GENERAL TERGOUKASOW has succeeded in relieving the Russian garrison of Bayazid after defeating the Turks.

No. 91.

Consul-General White to the Earl of Derby.—(Received July 14.)

(Telegraphic.) *Belgrade, July 13, 1877.*

HER Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople agrees with me that Lieutenant Marshall had better proceed to Widdin at once. I shall therefore instruct him accordingly as soon as I hear that your Lordship approves.

No. 92.

Consul-General White to Lord Tenterden.—(Received July 14.)

(Telegraphic.) *Belgrade, July 13, 1877.*

VICE-CONSUL requests transmission to Colonel Home, Intelligence Department, of following:—

"I start immdediately Widdin. Shall require three horses. How shall money be recovered?

No. 93.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received July 14.)

(No. 262.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, July 13, 1877.*

SULTAN'S Envoy to Afghanistan left yesterday. His instructions, of which I have a copy, are to the following effect:—

He is to go to Bombay and take Turkish Consul with him to Peshawur. He is to remain there to make arrangements for carrying out his mission, as the Ameer may be influenced by Russia with respect to it, and may wish to conceal its object from his people. As the Akoud of Swat and the principal Chiefs and Ulemas are believed to disapprove of conduct of Ameer, the Envoy will endeavour to gain them over, and to this end will send to them the two persons who accompany him to teach the Mussulmans the news and to warn them against the intrigues of Russia. The Akoud must induce everyone to obey the august orders of the Imam of Islamism and Caliph. Envoy will then proceed to Cabul and present his letters of credence to the Ameer. He will call on the Prime Minister, the Sheikh-ul-Islam, and other notables, but will avoid taking part with any of the Ameer's rivals. He is to warn the Ameer that he has to fear not Persia but Russia, who is the enemy of Islam and of the Mahomedan States of Central Asia, and intends to annex Bokhara and then Afghanistan. Ameer should consequently do all in his power to be at peace with England, the friend of Turkey. By listening to Russia he will hand over to her 5,000,000 or 6,000,000 Mussulmans under his rule, and bring ruin upon the neighbouring Mahomedan States. Such conduct being against the Holy Law of the Prophet, the Sultan, as the Caliph of Islam, warns him against it, but has no intention to interfere in the internal affairs of Afghanistan. Ameer is advised, for the safety of Islam, to have an army of 150,000 men to resist designs of Russia and maintain independence of the country. Envoy is to explain all

this to the Akoud of Swat and the notables, and to do his utmost to renew friendly political relations between England and Afghanistan. His general conduct will be guided by circumstances, and when he has accomplished the object of his Mission he will return to Constantinople, leaving Ahmed Effendi at Peshawur.

I venture to suggest that the above should be communicated to Indian Government.

No. 94.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received July 14.)

(No. 263.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, July 13, 1877.*

VICE-CONSUL at Filibe telegraphs that the Mutessarif has received a telegram from the Governor of Kazanlik, stating that a number of Mussulman refugees flying from the Russians have been massacred in cold blood by Bulgarians in the gorge of Kain Boghaz, between Tirnova and Kazanlik. The refugees thus murdered included women and children.

No. 95.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received July 14.)

(No. 264.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, July 13, 1877.*

WITH reference to your telegram of the 4th instant, I have been informed three weeks ago there were 12 battalions at Widdin, 20 more in the neighbourhood, 6 squadrons, and 6 batteries. Provision supply reported good; artillery said to be well horsed.

No. 96.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received July 14.)

(No. 265.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, July 14, 1877.*

VICE-CONSUL DUPUIS states that Governor-General of Adrianople informs him that Russians have established Military Tribunal at Selvi for trial of Mussulmans alleged to be implicated in Bulgarian insurrection of last year; that Bulgarians are invited to denounce Mussulmans, who are at once shot or hanged, and that the Russians are committing great barbarities on the poor defenceless Mussulman inhabitants of that part of the country.

No. 97.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received July 14.)

(No. 266.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, July 14, 1877.*

TURKISH Minister for Foreign Affairs begs me to ask Government of Bombay by telegraph to Turkish Consul there, to inform by telegraph Afghanistan Envoy who, Porte has learnt, has been sent to Peshawur by the Ameer, that a Cossakier named Said Ahmet Khoulousi Effendi has been named by the Sultan His Imperial Majesty's Ambassador Extraordinary to the Ameer; that he left Constantinople on the 12th, and that he will go to Cabul, and to request the Envoy to have the goodness to help Ambassador on his journey.

Will you ask Indian Government to do so?

No. 98.

Mr Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received July 14.)

(No. 267.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, July 14, 1877.*

CONSUL-GENERAL at Bagdad telegraphs this morning as follows:—

"Governor-General of Bagdad has intimated that people of Herbella have rebelled, and he intends to coerce them by military force. I have sent telegram to our Native Agent to warn all British Indian subjects to abstain from taking part in the struggle. Will have Proclamations posted also."

No. 99.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Layard.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, July 14, 1877, 2·45 P.M.*

PLEASE send home as soon as possible Captain Fife's Report, and any further information you can get as to the works in progress for the defence of the Gallipoli peninsula.

No. 100.

The Earl of Derby to Consul-General White.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, July 14, 1877, 3·45 P.M.*

I APPROVE of your sending Vice-Consul to Widdin. With reference to his inquiry as to horses, he may charge expenses for travelling on the public service, taking care to keep them within as reasonable limits as possible.

No. 111.

Consul Sanderson to the Earl of Derby.—(Received July 14, 8 P.M.)

(Telegraphic.) *Galatz, July 14, 1877.*

TELEGRAM of Danube Commissioner:—

"With reference to my telegram of the 11th instant on receipt of your official notification that the barges have actually been sunk in the Sulina mouth of the Channel, it may be proposed that the Commission make formal declaration. I shall join in this declaration unless I receive contrary orders by the 17th instant."

No. 102.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received July 15.)

(No. 268.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, July 14, 1877.*

I HAVE the following from Mahmoud Damat Pasha:—

"Porte heard this morning that about 200 Mahommedan men, women, and children, who were escaping in carts towards Varna, were overtaken by the Russian cavalry, who murdered the men and children and violated the women, who were afterwards killed in a most horrible manner. These deeds will soon be known to the Mussulman population everywhere, and though the Government feels strong enough to restrain the people now, it is feared that indignation and anger of the Mussulmans can no longer be restrained and that they will retaliate upon the Christians. The Government has, therefore, every reason to dread the consequences that may ensue from a popular outbreak."

Can nothing be done to put a stop to these horrors, reports of which come to me from all sides?

No. 103.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received July 15.)

(No. 269. Most Confidential.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, July 14, 1877.*

THE plan of works at the Gallipoli Peninsula has been finally decided, but they will not be commenced before ten days' time, as labour is not yet procurable on account of harvest. The lines of Buyuk Tchekmedje are being constructed, and, I am assured, will be completed in about six weeks.

Your telegram of to-day just received. Captain Fife's report on the Gallipoli line of fortification sent by messenger on Wednesday. I am doing my best to push on the work.

No. 104.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received July 15.)

(No. 270.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, July 15, 1877.*

VICE-CONSUL SANKEY informs me that the Turks will not defend Kustendji. The authorities have already embarked ready to leave, and the troops have fallen back on Silistria. The Russians had possession of Tchernavoda, and were close to the railway. Forty Circassians made prisoners by the Russians are stated to have been shot.

No. 105.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received July 15.)

(No. 271.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, July 15, 1877.*

CONSUL BLUNT telegraphs from Kazanlik yesterday that the Russians have burnt a number of Mahommedan villages, and that others between Tirnova, Dranova, and Valona had been abandoned on account of the barbarous conduct of the enemy. On that day Russian field artillery had burnt some villages in gorge of Hainkeuy in the district of Kazanlik, and it is stated had massacred the inhabitants. These villages are only four hours distant from Kazanlik, and at the same distance from railway towards Yeni-Zaghra. Up to that time the Kaïmakam, Judge, and the Mahommedan and Christian notables had reassured and quieted the people.

Vice-Consul Brophy also telegraphs yesterday that the Mussulman inhabitants of that part of the country are in a deplorable state; that the Russians and Bulgarian Christians at their instigation are committing shocking outrages upon Mussulmans; and that unless a stop be put to their barbarities the consequences will be most deplorable.

No. 106.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received July 15.)

(No. 272.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, July 15, 1877.*

VICE-CONSUL at Adrianople reports that it is telegraphed that the Russians have crossed the Balkans at Bogus, attacked and defeated the Turks near Eskizaghra. Fugitive families are coming to Adrianople. Order and tranquillity prevail there.

No. 107.

Lieutenant-Colonel Nixon to the Earl of Derby.—(Received July 15.)

(Telegraphic.) *Bagdad, July 14, 1877.*

THE Governor-General of Bagdad has intimated that the people of Kerbela have rebelled and it is his intention to coerce them with a military force. I have sent a

telegram to our Native Agent to warn all British Indian subjects to abstain from taking part in the struggle, and will have Proclamations to that effect posted at Kerbela. I am apprehensive the Arabs on the Euphrates will revolt and confusion be increased.

No. 108.

Lieutenant-Colonel Mansfield to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received July* 16.)

(Telegraphic.) *Bucharest, July* 16, 1877.
(Confidential.)

IT is reported that Nicopoli was taken in the night, the Russians entering in force at 7 o'clock this morning.

No. 109.

Lieutenant-Colonel Nixon to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received July* 16.)

Bagdad, July 16, 1877.
(Telegraphic.)

WITH reference to previous telegram, Governor-General of Bagdad reports that tranquillity is restored at Kerbela by surrender of chiefs of rebellion.

No. 110.

Consul Ricketts to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received July* 16.)

Tiflis, July 16, 1877.
(Telegraphic.)

SIEGE of Kars raised. Russian camp is twenty-two versts north-east of that place. Reinforcement of 30,000 soldiers expected here on and after 20th instant.

No. 111.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received July* 16.)

(No. 273.) *Constantinople, July* 16, 1877.
(Telegraphic.)

CONSUL READE arrived here. Confirms accounts of massacres of Mussulman women and children. From the information he has received it would appear that shocking outrages are principally committed by the Bulgarian Christians at instigation and under the protection of the Russian Cossacks, who are present at them. Reade will return at once to Rustchuk, and asks whether he is authorised to do anything for the protection of the defenceless Mahometan population. I have instructed him and Blunt to do all they can to prevent retaliation on part of Mussulmans.

No. 112.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received July* 16.)

(No. 274.) *Constantinople, July* 16, 1877.
(Telegraphic.)

THE Sultan has asked me whether, considering the great difficulties in which his Empire is placed, Her Majesty's Government would now object to the employment of Shefket Pasha. Consul Reade, to whom I have spoken on the subject, says that his appointment to a command would have a wonderful effect upon the Turkish troops, who look upon him as one of their ablest and most active Generals.

No. 113.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received July* 16.)

(No. 275.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, July* 16, 1877.

I AM assured that the Russians have crossed the Balkans in two places, and that they are now in possession of Kazanlik as well as of Eskizagra. All available troops are being hurried up from Constantinople to Adrianople. It is said that the Russian forces that have crossed the Balkans amounted yesterday to forty battalions. The German Ambassador is sending up one of his secretaries to Adrianople on a mission, the object of which I have not yet ascertained. State of affairs very critical, but everything quiet here.

No. 114.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received July* 17.)

(No. 277.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, July* 16, 1877.

FOLLOWING from Vice-Consul at Adrianople:—

"Kaïmakam of Yamboli telegraphs that Russian troops passed the Balkans and approached the village of Yeni-Zaagra, but were repulsed, and are being pursued to mountains by troops from this and Slimnia. Great excitement and uneasiness here among Turks and Christians, who are quitting for Constantinople. Otherwise things are quiet."

Minister for Foreign Affairs informs me that the place where Russians passed is Yeni, and not Eski-Zaagra, as I reported in my telegram No. 275.

No. 115.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received July* 17.)

(No. 278.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, July* 16, 1877.

GENERAL DICKSON has just been informed at the palace that only about 8,000 Russians have crossed the Balkans at Hairing Boghas without artillery, and that they are laying waste country in the Yeni-Zara district. Raouf Pasha was attacking them, and, according to a telegram received at that moment by the Sultan, was driving them back. It is impossible to get accurate information as to what is going on. I hope to send (?) Fife to Adrianople as soon as he returns from Gallipoli. Dupuis telegraphs this morning that the news from the Governor of Slimnia is more satisfactory and the public mind more tranquil.

No. 116.

Lieutenant-Colonel Mansfield to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received July* 17.)

(Telegraphic.) *Bucharest, July* 16, 1877.

COLONEL WELLESLEY was here yesterday. He saw Prince Gortchakow, who told him he had private information that the Turks intend crossing into Roumania by a bridge from Silistria.

I have no belief in the probability of the attack from the Turks. Wellesley has returned to the Imperial head-quarters, which crossed Danube yesterday.

No. 117.

Lieutenant-Colonel Mansfield to the Earl of Derby.—(Received July 17.)

(Telegraphic.)
(Confidential.) *Bucharest, July 16, 1877.*

IT is reported that Nicopolis was taken in the night, the Russians entering in force at 7 o'clock this morning.

No. 118.

Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.—(Received July 17.)

(Telegraphic.) *St. Petersburgh, July 16, 1877.*

OFFICIAL telegram, dated yesterday, from Imperial Commander-in-chief to the Emperor, felicitates His Majesty on the passage of the Balkans by the advanced guard of his army on the 13th instant without a shot being fired. General Gourko has taken Khankioi, occupied by 300 Nizams, who retired towards village of Konaro.

No. 119.

Mr. Plunkett to the Earl of Derby.—(Received July 17.)

(Telegraphic.) *Washington, July 16, 1877.*

I HAVE reason to suspect intrigues between Russian Agents and Pacific Mail Company for possible sale of some of their fast ships on Pacific side.

Mr. Houstone, Vice-President of the Company, went lately to London, where he saw Russian Ambassador, and also laid before him plans of two fast steam-ships just built at Philadelphia. Mr. Houstone has now started for Australia, ostensibly on business of the Company.

No. 120.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Layard.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, July 17, 1877, 3·30 P.M.*

WITH reference to my despatch No. 283 of the 5th instant, an influential deputation has waited upon me with reference to the Black Sea blockade. They have communicated extracts from their correspondence from Odessa and Nicholaieff, declaring that it is not effective, and that the squadron has only once appeared before Odessa, and speedily retired. The steamer from Odessa to Nicolaieff on the 2nd July was running as usual. They further complain that passes have been granted to Greek vessels, so that British vessels are placed at a disadvantage.

Represent this to the Porte, and state that Her Majesty's Government are anxious for a further report.

No. 121.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Layard.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, July 17, 1877, 4·5 P.M.*

WITH reference to your telegram No. 274, Her Majesty's Government cannot, after what has passed, be expected to acquiesce in the appointment of Shefket Pasha, the effect of which, on English opinion, will be very bad; but they have no right to dictate to the Turkish Government what officers it shall employ.

No. 122.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Layard.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, July 17, 1877, 4·30 P.M.*

WITH reference to your despatch No. 698 of the 29th ultimo, copy of which was sent to St. Petersburgh, Lord A. Loftus inquires whether the Porte will furnish necessary pecuniary means for return of Ottoman subjects to their native country?

No. 123.

The Earl of Derby to Consul Sanderson.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, July 17, 1877, 5·45 P.M.*

WITH reference to your telegram of the 14th instant, British Commissioner may join his colleagues in protesting as to sinking of barges if they decide to do so.

No. 124.

Lieutenant-Colonel Mansfield to the Earl of Derby.—(Received July 18.)

(Telegraphic.) *Bucharest, July 17, 1877.*

TWO Pashas, 6,000 troops, with large number of guns leaving Nicopoli, have been taken prisoners by General Krudener's force.

No. 125.

Consul Sanderson to the Earl of Derby.—(Received July 18.)

(Telegraphic.) *Galatz, July 17, 1877.*

COMMISSIONER of Danube—

"It is confirmed that the Russians have sunk four vessels containing about 260 cubic yards in the Sulina branch, about one mile and a-half below the upper entrance. On the top of the vessels they have thrown about 500 cubic yards additional stones reducing depth to about four feet."

No. 126.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received July 18.)

(No. 279.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, July 17, 1877.*

AUSTRIAN Ambassador received following information from his second Dragoman sent to Adrianople, dated :—

"At Yeni-Zaagra there was no fighting, but the Russians retired after makin reconnaissance; but at Slivno and Kazanlik there was fighting going on yesterday, with what result is unknown. Russians have not appeared at Shipka, but at Yamboli they repulsed a body of Circassians, who were, it is stated, attempting to burn a town."

No. 127.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received July 18.)

(Telegraphic.)
(Most Confidential.) *Vienna, July 17, 1877, midnight.*

MINISTER of War, whom I have just seen, attaches no importance to passage of the Balkan by the Russian forces reported yesterday. He says that it cannot be supported and must fall back, and he believes that a serious advance across the

mountains will not be attempted until Rustchuk is taken, which is not likely to happen for two months to come, or before the autumn will have made the passage of an army extremely difficult if not impossible.

No. 128.

Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.—(Received July 18.)

St. Petersburgh, July 18, 1877.

(Telegraphic.)

TWO divisions expected to-day at Tiflis to reinforce Russian army in Asia. Further reinforcement ordered. Two corps d'armée are ordered to reinforce Russian army on Danube.

No. 129.

Consul Kirby Green to the Earl of Derby.—(Received July 18.)

Cattaro, July 18, 1877.

(Telegraphic.)

I AM returning to Scutari. Although Prince of Montenegro is evidently aware that he cannot undertake offensive operations of the slenderest importance, he feels bound to follow the advice of the Russian Agent, who favours an active state of war. I have written by post.

No. 130.

Mr. Plunkett to the Earl of Derby.—(Received July 19.)

Washington, July 18, 1877.

(Telegraphic.)
(Confidential.)

ADMIRAL CROWN sailed from New York on the 7th, and is probably now in London. I learn also from Russian Minister that the Russian fleet in the Pacific went from San Francisco to Sandwich Islands, and has lately sailed thence under sealed orders.

No. 131.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received July 19.)

Constantinople, July 18, 1877.

(No. 280.)
(Telegraphic.)

SIR A. KEMBALL telegraphs on 13th :—

"Commander-in-chief has advanced to-day east of Kars, beyond village of Wesin, in the direction of Kerreckdere. Russians have still a force at Yeni-keui on river, about twenty miles from Kars. They are said to be all retiring by left bank to Alexandropol, and invasion abandoned. Russian left wing retiring to Igdir and Turkish right wing at Mussin, east of Bahukly Gol. Ardahan about to be abandoned by Russians."

Consul at Erzeroum telegraphs :—

"On Friday a Russian division advanced on Bayazid. Turkish investing force fell back, but having been reinforced, a battle ensued, which ended in defeat of Turks. Russian garrison set free. Russians have executed thirty Russian Kurdish Chiefs, probably for mutiny or pillage."

Turkish official account admits that Russian garrison at Bayazid was released, but that Russians fell back afterwards.

No. 132.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received July 19.)

Constantinople, July 19, 1877.

(No. 281.)
(Telegraphic.)

AARIFY PASHA has been appointed Minister for Foreign Affairs.

No. 133.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received July 19.)

Constantinople, July 19, 1877.

(No. 282.)
(Telegraphic.)

SANKEY informs me that Turks have evacuated Kustendje, which has been occupied by Russians. Bulgarians appear to be committing excesses in town and neighbourhood.

No. 134.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received July 19.)

Constantinople, July 19, 1877.

(No. 283.)
(Telegraphic.)

REDIF PASHA is dismissed from the Ministry of War, but no successor is yet appointed. Abdul Kerim and Ahmed Eyoub Pashas are also dismissed, and Osman Pasha appointed to the command on the Danube.

No. 135.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received July 19.)

Constantinople, July 19, 1877.

(No. 284.)
(Telegraphic.)

GRAND VIZIER says that he has reason to suspect the designs of Montenegrins, and he wishes to know whether Mr. Green's visit to the Prince has had any result. I cannot communicate with Green in cypher.

No. 136.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received July 19.)

Constantinople, July 19, 1877.

(No. 285.)
(Telegraphic.)

VICE-CONSUL at Felibé telegraphes :—

"Consular corps, with consent of Mutessarif, have arranged with heads of Mussulman, Christian, and Jewish communities for the organization of extra police force, composed of civilians of known respectability, to patrol streets at nights, accompanied by regular police. This improvised force will contain twenty-five foreigners. This arrangement will, I trust and believe, tend to establish a feeling of mutual confidence between Mussulmans and Christians which has not existed hitherto, former especially being apprehensive of Bulgarians."

Consul Blunt arrived this morning from Kezanlik.

No. 137.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received July 19.)

Constantinople, July 19, 1877.

(No. 286.)
(Telegraphic.)

FOLLOWING telegram has been received from Consul Blunt, dated Philippopoli, 18th July :—

"When I left Kezanlik yesterday at 7 P.M., Russians were within an hour of it. Turkish army, after two days' fighting without cavalry or artillery, were obliged to

retire, Russians being stronger than Turks. Shipka Pass being very dangerous, Russians, after attempting cutting off the line of retreat of Turks, will [?]. Russians have burnt several villages. As I understand, there is a very small supply of provisions at Shipka. The small passes between Mora, Slimnia, and Shipka are badly guarded; no artillery and no troops from what I learn. Russian military operations are conducted by the famous Scoboleff. After leaving Kezanlik, I heard the sound of a heavy cannonade for three-and-a-half hours."

No. 138.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received July* 19.)

(No. 287.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, July* 19, 1877.

Sir A. Kemball telegraphs on the 16th:—

"Russians have evacuated Yenikeui, and concentrated their forces between Parget and Kurukdere. It is said that they expect reinforcements here and on their left wing."

No. 139.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Taylour Thomson.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, July* 19, 1877, 3·15 P.M.

WITH reference to your telegram of the 24th ultimo, you may inform Persian Government that Her Majesty's Government are prepared to give their moral support at St. Petersburgh to the formal protest which they propose to make against Russian interference with the territory along the upper valley of the Attrek, including the district of Karee Kala. Instructions will be sent accordingly to Her Majesty's Ambassador at St. Petersburgh as soon as information is received from you that the Persian Government are about to make their protest.

No. 140.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Layard.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, July* 19, 1877, 4 P.M.

WITH reference to my telegram of the 17th instant, members of Deputation have communicated to me following telegram from their English Agent at Taganrog, as showing the inefficiency of the blockade:—

"The Greek vessels 'Aghios,' 'Joannis,' 'Theologos,' arrived; direct papers. Now loading, 'Triannos,' 'Taxiarchis,' 'Elpis,' 'Delfi,' 'Aghios;' 'Friars' also loading. 'Nikoferos' left three days ago.

"Following twelve ships left during June:—'Plessa,' 'Leonidas,' 'Panaghia,' 'Acatistu,' 'Temistocle,' 'Aspasia,' 'Joannis,' 'Scaravanga,' 'Constantinos,' 'Aghios,' 'Georgios,' 'Demetrius,' 'Nicolas,' 'Georgios Nicolas.'"

You will communicate this telegram to the Porte.

No. 141.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received July* 20.)

(No. 288.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, July* 19, 1877.

GRAND VIZIER informs me this evening that the Russians are in possession of Kazanlik, and that they will probably move on Philippopolis.

Their forces now on this side the Balkan are estimated at about 30,000 men.

Shipka Pass is also held by them. The news of the capture of Nicopolis has been received here.

Mehemed Ali Pasha, who has arrived here from Montenegro, will go up to-morrow to take the command of forces in Bulgaria. Assim Pasha, Minister of Justice, goes to Adrianople as High Commissioner, to endeavour to prevent any outbreak on

the part of the Mussulmans, who are exasperated at the accounts received of cruelties committed by Russians and Bulgarians.

The dispositions of the Russians are made, according to best military authorities here, to march upon Constantinople. The state of affairs is very critical, and I venture to suggest that Her Majesty's Government should lose no time in coming to a decision as to the course to be pursued.

No. 142.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received July* 20.)

(No. 289.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, July* 20, 1877.

PORTE has been informed that Austrians are making preparations to enter Bosnia and Herzegovina, and it is very anxious to know whether Her Majesty's Government have any information on the subject.

No. 143.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received July* 20.)

(No. 290.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, July* 20, 1877.

FOLLOWING telegram just received from Vice-Consul at Philippopolis, dated July 18:—

"Complete panic among Turkish population here this moring, owing to report that Russians have taken Kazanlik and that a body of them are marching here from Carlova. Most of the officials and upwards of 1,000 persons, chiefly Turkish women and children, flocking to railway station with their goods, but Mutessarif put a stop to their departure. Panic has now diminished in consequence of assurance given by Consular corps to a deputation of leading Turks that Russians would molest no peaceable persons. Situation still rather [?] However, Turkish lower orders being all openly armed. Fearing a Bulgarian rising, Austrian, French, and Greek colleagues will presently call in a body on Mutessarif to urge formation of a mixed police force of (?) and disarmament of population at large."

No. 144.

Lieutenant-Colonel Mansfield to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received July* 20.)

(Telegraphic.) *Bucharest, July* 20, 1877.
(Confidential.)

THE following telegraphed to-day to Belgrade:—

"I do not think Marshall should remain at Widdin; the place will certainly shortly be taken by the Russians, and the effect would be extremely bad were an English officer to be found there under the name of Consular Agent.

"I do not hesitate to say complications, or at all events disagreeable correspondence, might be the result."

Should your Lordship coincide in my views, I beg most respectfully to suggest that orders be sent to Her Majesty's Consul-General at Belgrade in that sense, and he to send a special messenger to Lieutenant Marshall at Widdin.

No. 145.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Layard.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, July* 20, 1877, 3 35 P.M.

WITH reference to your telegram No. 266, India Office have not heard of the Ameer's intention to send an Envoy to Peshawur, and think Turkish Government has been misinformed.

No. 146.

The Earl of Derby to Consul-General White.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, July 20, 1877, 5 P.M.*

WITH reference to Colonel Mansfield's telegram of this day, what is Lieutenant Marshall's position at Widdin?

No. 147.

Lieutenant-Colonel Wellesley to the Earl of Derby.—(Received July 21.)

(Telegraphic.)
(Secret.) *July 19, 1877.*

RUSSIAN troops hold pass of Balkans, eastward of Kazanlik; 12th and 13th Corps advance on River Lom, on other side of which Turks are in force, and battle is expected.

My conviction is that Russians intend to occupy Constantinople, and that English occupation would be regarded as a declaration of war. This is only my private opinion.

No. 148.

Lieutenant-Colonel Mansfield to the Earl of Derby.—(Received July 21.)

(Telegraphic.)
(Most Confidential.) *Bucharest, July 21, 1877.*

GENERAL IGNATIEW told a person of whose veracity I am certain, but whose name I am not at liberty to mention, that the Pasha commanding at Rustchuk has been bought, and that the place will fall after the semblance of a few days' resistance. The question is how much veracity attaches to any statement of General Ignatiew?

No. 149.

Consul-General White to the Earl of Derby.—(Received July 21.)

(Telegraphic.) *Belgrade, July 20, 1877.*

MARSHALL'S position is a temporary one at Widdin. He is British Vice-Consul in Servia. Sent to Widdin, where there is no English Consul, but an Austrian one on special service.

No. 150.

Consul-General White to the Earl of Derby.—(Received July 21.)

(Telegraphic.) *Belgrade, July 21, 1877.*

WITH reference to my telegram of last night, I may state that both Nisch and Widdin were included in this Consular district in the time of my predecessor, Mr. Longworth.

No. 151.

Consul-General White to the Earl of Derby.—(Received July 21.)

(Telegraphic.) *Belgrade, July 21, 1877, noon.*

COLONEL MANSFIELD'S telegram reached me after I had sent my two last ones to your Lordship. I gave Marshall written instructions, copy of which I send by

this messenger. Your Lordship will see from them that I distinctly cautioned him to avoid being shut up in case of an investment. I trust to his discretion to leave Widdin in time, unless your Lordship wishes him to be recalled at once.

No 152.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received July 21.)

(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, July 21, 1877.*

A DESPATCH from her Majesty's Consul at Ragusa, just received, states that military preparations of every kind are being made in Dalmatia; munitions of war or provisions are being landed by every steamer, and the military stations are being fortified; the troops have been ordered to be ready for active service, and 800 mules have been collected between Ragusa and Klek.

No. 153.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received July 21.)

(Telegraphic) *Vienna, July 21, 1877.*

WITH reference to the copy of a letter from Colonel Stokes, inclosed in your Lordship's despatch No. 248 of the 28th, and to my despatch No. 602 of the 19th instant, I beg to explain that M. Orczy, in stating to me that the Government here are of opinion that the deepened bed of the Sulina branch of the Danube should be held to form part of the neutralized works of the Commission, took the same view as Colonel Stokes as to waters of Channel having no claim to neutrality.

No. 154.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received July 21.)

(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, July 21, 1877.*

WITH reference to the question of the Porte, Military Attaché knows of no further additions being made to the Austrian forces on the frontier than those mentioned in his report inclosed in my despatch No. 551 of the 8th ultimo, and he is of opinion that no occupation of Turkish territory will take place without the mobilization of a part of the army. All other preparations for every possible eventuality have been long since made.

I do not pretend to know when Government may consider it necessary to take measures for the protection of their interests, but "material guarantees," referred to in Count Andrassy's despatch to Count Beust of the 22nd ultimo, taken with the context, can, it appears to me, only mean an occupation of Bosnia and the Herzegovina.

No. 155.

Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.—(Received July 21.)

(Telegraphic.) *St. Petersburgh, July 21, 1877.*

SINCE communication by Russian Ambassador in London of the Russian answer to my note of the 21st June, on Russian advance towards Merve, second report has been received here announcing General Lomakin's return to his head-quarters.

Death of Ameer of Kashgar officially confirmed. He died at Kourle after thirteen days' illness, appointing a certain Hakim his successor. He, however, gave up succession to eldest son of Ameer, who has officially announced to General Kaufmann death of his father, and his succession with approval of nation.

No. 156.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received July 21.)

(No. 291.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, July 21, 1877.*

PORTE has been informed from Athens that the Greek Government is preparing for immediate hostilities against Turkey. This is confirmed by the language held to me last night by the Greek Minister, and I am led to believe that an occasion for quarrel with Turkey will be found at once. (Sent to Athens.)

No. 157.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Layard.

(No. 358.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, July 21, 1877, 5·10 P.M.*

WITH reference to my telegram of 19th instant, Consul at Taganrog telegraphs that several Greek vessels which remained there after the prescribed term have loaded cargo and proceeded into the Black Sea, and that two or three vessels with cargo under the Greek flag have arrived at Taganrog from Constantinople, the latest only a few days ago.

Inform Porte of this, and state that English merchants complain of being placed at a disadvantage.

No. 158.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Layard.

(No. 359.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, July 21, 1877, 5·30 P.M.*

WITH reference to your telegram No. 289, Sir A. Buchanan telegraphs as follows:—

"With reference to question of the Porte, Military Attaché knows of no further additions being made to the Austrian forces on the frontier than those mentioned in his report inclosed in my despatch No. 551 of the 8th ultimo, and he is of opinion that no occupation of Turkish territory will take place without the mobilization of a part of the army. All other preparations for every possible eventuality have been long since made."

We have no knowledge here that Austria is about to enter Bosnia and Herzegovina, but cannot answer for eventualities.

No. 159.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received July 22.)

(No. 293.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, July 21, 1877.*

FOLLOWING figures from Consul Green:—

"Montenegro will probably, under the advice of the Russian Consul, bombard most Turkish positions on the northern and southern frontiers, but with no hope of doing any injury, the guns being of powerful calibre.

"A Council of War was to have been held at Ovaluka on the 16th, but was put off on account of illness of the Russian Consul. Both the Austrian Agent and the "Times" Correspondent told me Montenegro had consented to act thus far to secure Russian subventions, and is fully aware that it cannot undertake serious offensive operations. Prince said he was also being urged to make a demonstration in the direction of Kolaschin to help Servia. I hear that the firing on Nichsich has already commenced."

No. 160.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received July 22.)

(No. 293 B.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, July 21, 1877.*

I HAVE seen a highly-respectable Armenian who arrived here last night from Kazanlik. He confirms the statements of atrocities committed upon the Mussulman populations by the Bulgarians, under the protection and at the instigation of Russians. The chief leader in them, he says, is Hadji Dimitri, a merchant of Drunova. Many most flourishing villages have been burnt, women violated, and children put to death in a most horrible way, the Cossacks having first disarmed the inhabitants and then given them over to the Bulgarians for slaughter. I send home by next messenger evidence taken by Mr. Blunt from fugitives which confirms these statements.

No. 161.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received July 22.)

(No. 294.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, July 21, 1877.*

A DECLARATION has been signed by above twenty correspondents of leading European newspapers at Shumla, including the "Times," testifying to outrages committed upon inoffensive Mussulmans, especially women and children, by Russian troops and Bulgarians. It is to be transmitted to England and elsewhere.

No. 162.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received July 22.)

(No. 295.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, July 21, 1877.*

PORTE has received intelligence that Osman Pasha was attacked on the 19th and 20th at Plevna, and after two days' hard fighting repulsed the enemy with great loss, capturing three cannons and a large quantity of arms.

No. 163.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received July 22.)

(No. 296.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, July 22, 1877.*

I UNDERSTAND from a telegram from Mr. Blunt, dated yesterday, that the Turks have been obliged to abandon the Shipka pass.

No. 164.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received July 22.)

(No. 297.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, July 22, 1877.*

TELEGRAMS received from Adrianople and Philippopoli most contradictory as to number of Russians who have crossed Balkan.

Consul Blunt says Turkish authorities place it at 30,000; Vice-Consul Dupuis at 8,000, accompanied by 10,000 armed Bulgarians.

Captain Fife states that Governor of Adrianople places it at about 1,000 Russians, with mountain guns, and some thousand Bulgarians. According to last accounts that I have received, the Russians had occupied Kalofer on the road to Philippopolis.

No. 165.

Consul-General White to the Earl of Derby.—(Received July 23.)

(Telegraphic.) *Belgrade, July 23, 1877, 10 A.M.*

MOST difficult to ascertain exactly nature of military preparations. At Belgrade these consist in fresh registration of military men, and sending the ammunition. At any rate, Servian exchequer empty, and fighting power almost nil.

At the worst they would be content with occupying certain border districts when no Turkish force exists any more there.

Prince Milan has his uncle as military agent at Imperial Russian head-quarters. This officer was here secretly last week to see His Highness, and went back to Roumania. Object of this visit unknown.

No. 166.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Layard.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, July 23, 1877, 4 P.M.*

WITH reference to Mr. Abbott's despatches of the 18th and 20th instant as to the risk of a massacre of the Nestorian Christians, point out to the Government to which you are accredited the evils likely to arise from the movements of the Koords, and urge strongly that measures be taken before it is too late to avert the danger which seems to be impending.

No. 167.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Taylour Thomson.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, July 23, 1877, 4·30 P.M.*

INFORM Mr. Abbott of substance of my other telegram of this day, and a similar telegram has been sent to Mr. Layard.

No. 168.

The Earl of Derby to Consul Sanderson.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, July 23, 1877, 4·45 P.M.*

HAS any portion of the 7th Corps moved into the Dobrudscha? Where is the 15th Corps? What is the estimated force in Dobrudscha?

No. 169.

Mr. Wood to the Earl of Derby.—(Received July 24.)

(Telegraphic.) *Tunis, July 23, 1877.*

HAVE honour to report that Tunisian Prime Minister having tendered his resignation, the Bey accepted it and named in his room General Mohamed.

No. 170.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Layard.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, July 24, 1877, 3·20 P.M.*

WITH reference to my telegram of yesterday respecting the Nestorian Christians, you might send Mr. Rassam to the district to report and do what he can for their protection. Mr. Thomson has been instructed to make a representation to the Persian Government respecting the Koords.

No. 171.

Consul Freeman to the Earl of Derby.—(Received July 25.)

(Telegraphic.) *Serajevo, July 24, 1877.*

I PROPOSE to send Vice-Consul Cooper with military expedition about to be made against Despotovich. The Commander of the troops in Bosnia consents.

No. 172.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received July 25.)

(No. 298.)

(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, July 24, 1877.*

SULTAN has sent following message to me through Tahir Bey, one of his Aide-de-camps:—

His Majesty entreats the Queen and Her Majesty's Government to use their influence with the Emperor Alexander to put an end to the shocking cruelties committed by his troops upon the inoffensive Mussulman population of the country which he has invaded. Men, women, and children are being outraged and murdered in the most horrible manner. His Majesty can scarcely believe that the Emperor Alexander wishes that this war should become one of extermination and of brigands, and trusts that representations will be made to him of the character which his troops are giving to it.

By the Sultan's command Tahir Bey, who has just arrived from Schumla and the seat of war, gave me an account of revolting acts of atrocity committed by the Russians and Bulgarians, of which he has been eye witness. His account is, I grieve to say, confirmed, in a great measure, by the reports received from our Consular Agents, newspaper correspondents, and other sources.

No. 173.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received July 25.)

(No. 300.)

(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, July 25, 1877.*

FOLLOWING just received from Vice-Consul at Adrianople, dated yesterday evening:—

"News comes that Russians are making rapid progress.

"They have destroyed railway line at Haskeui, between Philippopolis, also between Yeni-Zara and Seimen, and have crossed the Mariedsa.

"Train from Philippopolis (?) cut off.

"Haskui reported on fire.

"Suleiman despatching great forces to Tirnova junction."

No. 174.

Lieutenant-Colonel Mansfield to the Earl of Derby.—(Received July 25.)

(Telegraphic.) *Bucharest, July 25, 1877.*

IT is believed that the Roumanian army, at the request of the Emperor Alexander, is to occupy Nicopolis.

No. 175.

Consul-General White to the Earl of Derby.—(Received July 25.)

(Telegraphic.) *Belgrade, July 25, 1877.*

MARSHALL reports that Nicopolis has been relieved by the Turks on Monday and that Russians retired on Sistova.

No. 176.

Consul Sanderson to the Earl of Derby.—(Received July 25.)

(Telegraphic.) *Galatz, July 25, 1877.*

WITH reference to your telegram of yesterday only one division of the 7th Russian corps d'armée entered Roumania, and that has retired towards Odessa.

Estimated Russian force in the Dobrudja 40,000 at most. I have no news of 15th corps d'armée. Cavalry are passing by rail, probably 10th corps d'armée.

No. 177.

The Earl of Derby to Consul Freeman.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, July 25, 1877, 5 P.M.*

IN reply to your telegram of the 24th, I do not understand what advantage would be gained by the presence of Vice-Consul Cooper with the Turkish troops. It might give rise to misapprehension, and, unless you have some strong reason for it, had better not accompany them.

No. 178.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Layard.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, July 25, 1877, 5·15 P.M.*

WITH reference to your telegram No. 298, I have already brought to the notice of the Russian Ambassador the reports of cruelties inflicted on Mussulman population received from you and from Her Majesty's Consuls.

A Parliamentary paper containing these, as well as the communications on the subject received from Musurus Pasha, was presented yesterday.

No. 179.

Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.—(Received July 26.)

(Telegraphic.) *St. Petersburgh, July 26, 1877.*

IT is officially reported here that Russian troops, under General Schildner-Schuldner, sustained a severe reverse at Plevna on the 20th instant, being compelled to retreat, with loss of 1,900 men.

No. 180.

Lieutenant-Colonel Mansfield to the Earl of Derby.—(Received July 26.)

(Confidential.)
(Telegraphic.) *Bucharest, July 26, 1877.*

REFERRING to my telegram of yesterday, Nicopolis is occupied by Roumanian army, consequent on check suffered by Russian forces at Plevna.

No. 181.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received July 26.)

(No. 301.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, July 26, 1877.*

CONSUL FREEMAN telegraphs to me that there is no reason to believe that any preparations are being made in Dalmatia for the occupation of Bosnia; but Turkish military authorities have been instructed to concert measures with Austrian military authorities in Croatia and Dalmatia for the suppression of insurrection, and

that a Turkish Staff-Major is leaving for frontier with this object. Grand Vizier admits that this is true, but expresses strong doubts as to realization of the intentions of Austria.

Austrian Ambassador gives me the most positive and explicit assurances that Austria has no desire or intention of occupation of Bosnia and Herzegovina under present circumstances. He maintains that accounts of military preparations in Dalmatia are either unfounded or greatly exaggerated.

No. 182.

Colonel Wellesley to the Earl of Derby.—(Received July 27.)

(Telegraphic.)
(Secret and Confidential.) *Bjela, Bulgaria, July 20, 1877.*

I AM authorized by the Emperor to state that, notwithstanding recent successes, and though of course His Majesty cannot suspend military operations, he is of the same opinions, and ready to treat for peace if the Sultan will make suitable propositions.

I cannot too strongly express my conviction that an attack on Constantinople can only be avoided by immediate overtures on the part of the Porte.

No. 183.

Colonel Wellesley to the Earl of Derby.—(Received July 27.)

(Telegraphic.) *Bjela, July 25, 1877.*

GREAT indignation here at the news that English and foreign correspondents with the Turks have testified to Russian cruelties in Bulgaria. It is argued here that Russian cavalry having only advanced as far as Pirana, even if such cruelties had been committed, which is emphatically denied, the Turks could have known nothing of them; and, furthermore, that it would be impossible to perpetrate atrocities on Turks, as they are compelled to abandon their villages before the Russian approach.

Since my last telegram to your Lordship, I have seen two English correspondents who have been at the front, and one of whom has been present at several reconnaissances, and they both speak in the highest terms of the kind nature of the Russian soldiers. Grand Duke Wladimir reports that while making a reconnaissance he saw many cases of Turkish atrocities on Bulgarians; among them a murdered woman. It would be well if this telegram were published.

No. 184.

Colonel Wellesley to the Earl of Derby.—(Received July 27.)

(Telegraphic.)
(Confidential.) *Bjela, July 26, 1877.*

YESTERDAY Emperor thanked me for sending telegram to your Lordship respecting alleged Russian atrocities, but feared it would not be either believed or published by Her Majesty's Government, the feeling in England being at present so strong against Russia. His Majesty deprecated this feeling, and again assured me that he did not dream of interfering with English interests.

No. 185.

Lieutenant-Colonel Mansfield to the Earl of Derby.—(Received July 27.)

(Telegraphic.)
(Confidential.) *Bucharest, July 27, 1877.*

MINISTER for Foreign Affairs tells me that Roumanian troops have not yet crossed to Nicopolis.

He apprehends that some question of military etiquette has arisen which has deterred Prince Charles from giving the definite order.

No. 186.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.— (Received July 27.)

(No. 302.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, July 26, 1877.*

PORTE has forbidden transmission from any part of the Empire of telegrams concerning military or naval operations and movements.

No. 187.

The Earl of Derby to Colonel Wellesley.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, July 27, 1877.*

YOUR telegram of the 25th was received this morning, and will be laid before Parliament to-day.

No. 188.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received July 27.)

(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, July 27, 1877.*

THE Turkish Ambassador, although without information from the Porte, believes that Midhat Pasha is on his way to Constantinople, and telegrams have arrived here for him.

No. 189.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received July 27.)

(No. 304.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, July 27, 1877, 10·30 A.M.*

THE Russians are making serious progress on this side of the Balkans, and may be soon at Adrianople, from whence a few short marches would take them to the Gallipoli Peninsula.

I venture once more to urge upon Her Majesty's Government to take into their most earnest consideration the occupation of this most important position, not as a threat to Russia, or as a step towards war, but in the interests of peace and humanity, and as a guarantee for the interests of England. If we told Russia clearly and decidedly that we will not consent to her taking possession of Constantinople, she might, through our mediation, and that of the other Powers, make peace at Adrianople. If Russia be once in the possession of the Dardanelles, all action on our part would be paralysed. She could dictate such terms of peace as she might think fit. Should the Russians advance upon Constantinople the Sultan will go to Brussa, where I understand preparations are already being secretly made for his reception. His departure and that of the Government would leave the capital at the mercy of a mob and of a defeated and demoralized army. It might be set on fire, and the Christians and Europeans massacred. The presence of many thousands of refugees from all sides, in the utmost misery, with stories of Russian atrocities, which may be true or false, is causing already great excitement among the Mussulman population. The warning as to this imminent danger comes to me from so many high and trustworthy sources that I cannot altogether neglect it. In the event of it proving true, our fleet could do nothing to prevent a massacre, for it would be the height of rashness to bring it to Constantinople if the Dardanelles were in the possession of Russia.

German Ambassador suggests that we might land part of the crews of the small foreign gunboats stationed here, but this measure would be of little avail, except perhaps for the protection of the houses and property belonging to Legations. As regards a guarantee for our own interests, if Her Majesty's Government have decided

upon allowing Russia to occupy Constantinople the possession of the Dardanelles would always prevent her from remaining there.

This matter is of such a vital and urgent importance that I trust that your Excellency will forgive me for again bringing it before you.

No. 190.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received July 27.)

(No. 305. Secret.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, July 27, 1877, 1 P.M.*

AUSTRIAN Ambassador got a Greek gentleman who has access to the Sultan to convey to His Majesty his advice that His Majesty should leave Constantinople at once and go to Brussa. His Majesty was excessively angry at the suggestion, and declared that, rather than leave the capital, he would shed the last drop of his blood on its ruins. Austrian Ambassador seems so convinced that some great disaster is to take place, that he is making, I am told, preparations for removal of the archives of his Embassy. His advice to the Sultan was, it appears to me, very unwise.

Nothing could be more likely to lead to a great calamity then departure of the Sultan at this moment from Constantinople.

No. 191.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received July 28.)

(No. .)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, July 28, 1877.*

WITH reference to your telegram of yesterday as to readiness of Emperor of Russia to treat for peace, do you wish me to act in the matter?

I could, if you thought fit, sound the Sultan.

No. 192.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Layard.

(Telegraphic.)
(Confidential.) *Foreign Office, July 28, 1877, 3·20 P.M.*

YOU are authorized to sound the Sultan as to possible terms of peace. Her Majesty's Government are not disposed to take the initiative in proposing conditions, but the Sultan may rely on their friendly offices with a view to obtain the most favourable terms possible under the circumstances, if he is disposed to open negotiations.

No. 193.

The Earl of Derby to Lord A. Loftus.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, July 28, 1877, 3·35 P.M.*

WITH reference to your despatch No. 380 of July 17, you may give passports in cases of necessity to Turkish subjects, but you should be careful to describe the bearers as Turkish subjects, and to state in the passport that it is given to enable them to return to Turkey.

No. 194.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received July 29.)

(No. 307.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, July 28, 1877.*

COLONEL LENNOX telegraphed to me from Yeni-Zaghra yesterday to the following effect:—

It appears from inquiries which he has made in concert with Raouf Pasha, and upon personal examination of inhabitants of five villages, that when Russians enter a Turkish village they force Mahometans to give up their arms, which are immediately handed over to the Bulgarians, who proceed to commit most terrible atrocities, violating women, killing men and even little children and burning the villages.

Colonel Lennox himself spoke to a Turk whose two children had been massacred. These acts are committed with connivance of the Russians. The Bulgarians carry off the cattle belonging to the Mussulmans. The Circassians have also carried off large quantity of sheep and cattle in order to save them from the Russians, which Raouf Pasha has sent to Adrianople.

No. 195.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received July 29.)

(No. 308.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, July 28, 1877.*

PORTE has communicated to me following telegram from the Governor-General of Janina:—

"Greek Government has given orders to complete the frontier regiments by calling out the reserve. A battery, with cavalry and infantry, has been sent in the direction of Anadin. Besides the frontier forces there is a battalion at Virchor and one at Messolonghi, which latter is about to join the former. The Greeks being about to cross the frontier and advance upon some of the ports opposite Corfu, have ordered their two ironclads at Corfu to co-operate. Italian Consul has ordered the flotilla from Brindisi to prevent Greek invasion of Turkish territory extending from Durazzo to (name not certain). Authorities at Yeni-Sheir state that the inhabitants of Armyro and other places have been summoned to Greece; that the reserves are being called out and drafted and volunteers collected."

No. 196.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received July 29.)

(No. 309.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, July 28, 1877.*

CONSUL READE has sent official accounts of atrocities committed by the Russians upon the Mussulman women and children, and gives names of eighteen whom he has personally examined. Other victims are being brought into Schumla daily, and Consul Reade has no doubt that the outrages he describes have been committed by the Russians and not by the Bulgarians. A considerable number of women and children must, he thinks, have been killed on the spot. His dispatches on this subject will go home by messenger.

I have received further and apparently authentic details from the Porte of the destruction of the Mussulman villages and outrages on their inhabitants by Cossacks and Bulgarians in the country between Adrianople and Philippopoli.

No. 197.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received July 29.)

Vienna, July 28, 1877.

(Telegraphic.)

ON calling to-day at the Turkish Embassy, I was informed that Midhat Pasha had arrived, and that the Ambassador had gone to see him.

No. 198.

Lieutenant-Colonel Mansfield to the Earl of Derby.—(Received July 30.)

(Telegraphic.) *Bucharest, July 29, 1877.*
(Secret.)

I RECEIVED your Cypher I. by messenger; profit by his return to furnish following information, which will be telegraphed from Bucharest:—

Defeat of Russians at Plevna on the 19th was complete. They lost 3,000 men. Attack was made by three regiments of infantry, three cavalry, and five batteries. Russians at first successfully occupied town; had failed, however, to reconnoitre road from Widdin by which Turkish reinforcements arrived, and drove them out with great slaughter.

This defeat considerable check to advance. Original plan was investment of Rustchuk by the 12th and 13th corps d'armée, whose rear covered by 11th corps, which would have also watched Shumla. Had Plevna fallen, Balkan would have been crossed by 8th and 9th corps with the 4th in reserve. Defeat necessitated change of plan and delay. Decision to renew attack on Plevna, where Turks are said to have 30,000 men.

Russians are concentrating about 50,000 men for this purpose. Attack probable to-morrow. Investment of Rustchuk delayed because part of 11th corps has been marched back to assist in the Plevna attack.

Present position as follows:—4th corps, Simnitza, with one detached for Plevna; 11th, half about to attack Plevna and remainder a little north-east of Tirnova; 12th and 13th occupying line from Pirgos southward of 11th corps near to Tirnova, facing the east; portion of 14th corps holding the Kustendje-Tchernavoda Railway, remainder approaching Silistria. Balkan will be crossed by 8th, 9th, and 11th corps.

Two additional divisions of infantry and brigade of rifles on the way from Kieff.

Russians have cut Adrianople-Sophia Railway in two places.

I do not believe more than 25,000 have crossed the Balkan.

Emperor evidently believes that Her Majesty's Government encourages the publication of alleged Russian cruelties, and is unwilling to give publicity to official or private denials of them.

No. 199.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received July 30.)

(No. 312.) *Constantinople, July 30, 1877.*
(Telegraphic.)

TURKISH troops have reoccupied Loftcha, south of Plevna, the Russian force there having been compelled to remove to Selvi.

No. 200.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received July 30.)

(No. 313.) *Constantinople, July 30, 1877.*
(Telegraphic.)

WITH reference to my telegram of yesterday, No. 311, I beg to call your attention to a report of Vice-Consul Maling on the defences of Dardanelles sent home in my despatch No. 625 of 17th June. It gives the best account that I have on the subject, and was communicated to Admiral Hornby.

No. 201.

Consul-General White to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received July* 30.)

(Telegraphic.) , *July* 30, 1877.

VICE-CONSUL MARSHALL reports last night from Widdin rumours of a fresh engagement of Osman Pasha's between Nicopolis and Loucha. It is expected at Widdin that Roumanians will cross at Florentin.

No. 202.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received July* 30.)

(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, July* 30, 1877.

RUMOURS of an immediate mobilization are again in circulation, but they are contradicted at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. There is a general belief that the question will be considered at a Council now sitting, for which the Hungarian Prime Minister and Minister of Finance have come from Pesth.

No. 203.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received July* 30.)

(Telegraphic.)
(Confidential.) *Vienna, July* 30, 1877.

MIDHAT PASHA, I am assured, is here unofficially, and no arrangement has yet been made for his return to Constantinople. He is, however, in correspondence with the Sultan's Secretary. He saw Count Andrassy yesterday, who told him that no diplomatic intervention can take place until relative strength of the belligerents has been changed by a decided battle. He intends calling upon me to-morrow morning.

No. 204.

Lieutenant-Colonel Wellesley to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received July* 31.)

(Telegraphic.) *Biela, July* 20, 1877.

MUCH astonishment here at the repeated assertions in the English press of Russian atrocities in Bulgaria. Not being at the front I am unable to deny them, but I have not heard of a single case on this side of the Danube; on the contrary, I hear from eye-witnesses that the Russian soldiers have shown the greatest kindness to Turkish prisoners, sharing their bread and water with them.

No. 205.

Lieutenant-Colonel Wellesley to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received July* 31.)

(Telegraphic.) *Biela, July* 23, 1877.

I HAVE just seen an Englishman who has been with Rustchuk army; he reports massacre by Turks of 100 Christians in churchyard of village Kaseljevo, beyond River Lom. This gentleman, who has been to the front the whole time, assures me that he has heard of no case of Russian cruelty.

No. 206.

Sir A. Paget to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received July* 31.)

(Telegraphic.)
(Most Confidential.) *Rome, July* 30, 1877.

ITALIAN Government hears from Vienna that a mobilization of part of the Austrian army, with a view to occupation of the Herzegovina and Bosnia, accompanied by certain military precautions on Italian frontier, is likely.

This would create a good deal of agitation in Italy, and place the Government in a difficult position.

No. 207.

Consul-General White to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received July* 31.)

(Telegraphic.) *Belgrade, July* 31, 1877.

SOME secret negotiations appear going on between Servia and Greece. The Consul-General of the latter Kingdom gone to see Prince Milan and his Ministry at Craguievats.

No. 208.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received July* 31.)

(No. 314.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, July* 31, 1877.

CONSUL at Erzeroum telegraphs as follows:—

"Orders from Constantinople to officers commanding direct them, should they enter Russian territory, to spare only the women and children, but to slaughter every man without mercy. On Friday, Turkish Commander-in-chief pushed cavalry reconnaissance across the frontier. Same day severe, but indecisive, action near Ain. Russian division, reported 20,000 strong, marching from Ardahan; outposts reached Pennek on Friday. Three battalions of Imperial Guard are to leave this immediately for Gorgeboghas. This advance will oblige Commander-in-chief to fall back to save his communications."

I cannot always trust Mr. Zohrab's telegrams. I will make immediate inquiries as to order alleged to have been given to Turkish Commanders.

No. 209.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received July* 31.)

(No. 315.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, July* 31, 1877.

CONSUL BLUNT telegraphs to-day that Osman Pasha telegraphs from Plevna that yesterday he was attacked by a Russian force estimated by prisoners taken at 60,000 men, with forty guns; that Russians were repulsed with great loss; that the attack has been renewed; and that a severe engagement is now going on.

No. 210.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received July* 31.)

(No. 316.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, July* 31, 1877.

AARIFI PASHA has resigned, and is succeeded by Server Pasha as Minister for Foreign Affairs.

No. 211.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received July 31.)

(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, July* 31, 1877, 8 P.M.

THE Council, after a declaration in favour of the maintenance of neutrality and of their entire confidence in Count Andrassy, authorized him, whenever he may think it necessary, to call upon Minister of War to mobilize one army corps and one division, or, in other words, four divisions, an army corps being on a peace footing 25,000 men, and when mobilized 60,000. Arrangements were also, I understand, made for providing the necessary funds.

I have been informed that nothing will be done unless the Turkish armies are entirely defeated, and that the mobilized force will be sent to the Servian frontier.